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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 6 as follows:

1. (Once amended) A method for using a flexible sheet for cutting and
2 handling food articles thereon, comprising:
3 providing a sheet of flexible resilient plastic material having lay-flat
4 characteristics, a width greater than 6 inches and a length greater than 10
5 inches;
6 said plastic material having a Rockwell hardness between 72 and 90;
7 said plastic material having a thickness between [0.008] 0.010 inches and
8 [0.060] 0.030 inches;
9 said sheet having sufficient cantilever beam strength when flexed around the
10 longitudinal centerline and held proximate a first end to support an article
11 spaced at least 10 inches from said first end and weighing at least 5
12 ounces;
13 placing said sheet on a flat surface;
14 placing a food article on said sheet;
15 cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;
16 flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;
17 lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said
18 cut pieces; and
funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

6. (Once amended) A method for using a flexible cutting sheet for food
2 preparation, comprising:
3 providing a sheet of plastic sheet material having a thickness ^f [less than] in the
4 range of 0.010 to 0.030 inches and a flexural modulus in the range of
5 75,000 to 200,000 psi;
6 said sheet having a Rockwell hardness in excess of 72;

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- 8 placing said sheet on a flat surface;
placing a food article on said sheet;
cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;
10 flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;
lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said
12 cut pieces; and
funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

Please add the following new claims:

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12. A method for using a flexible sheet for cutting and handling food
2 articles thereon, comprising:
providing a sheet of flexible resilient plastic material having lay-flat
4 characteristics, a width greater than 6 inches and a length greater than 10
inches;
6 said plastic material having a Rockwell hardness between 72 and 90;
said plastic material having a thickness between 0.030 inches and 0.060 inches;
8 said sheet having sufficient cantilever beam strength when flexed around the
longitudinal centerline and held proximate a first end to support an article
10 spaced at least 10 inches from said first end and weighing at least 5
ounces;
12 placing said sheet on a flat surface;
placing a food article on said sheet;
14 cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;
flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;
16 lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said
cut pieces; and
18 funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

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13. A method for using a flexible cutting sheet for food preparation,
2 comprising:
providing a sheet of plastic sheet material having a thickness in the range of
4 0.030 to 0.060 inches and a flexural modulus in the range of 75,000 to
200,000 psi;
6 said sheet having a Rockwell hardness in excess of 72;
placing said sheet on a flat surface;
8 placing a food article on said sheet;
cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;
10 flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;
lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said
12 cut pieces; and
funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

Sub B3 14. A method for using a flexible sheet for cutting and handling food
2 articles thereon, comprising:
providing a sheet of flexible resilient plastic material having lay-flat
4 characteristics, a width greater than 6 inches and a length greater than 10
inches;
6 said plastic material having a Rockwell hardness between 72 and 90;
said plastic material having a thickness between 0.015 inches and 0.040 inches;
8 said sheet having sufficient cantilever beam strength when flexed around the
longitudinal centerline and held proximate a first end to support an article
10 spaced at least 10 inches from said first end and weighing at least 5
ounces;
12 placing said sheet on a flat surface;
placing a food article on said sheet;
14 cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;

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16 flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;
lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said
cut pieces; and
18 funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

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2 15. A method for using a flexible cutting sheet for food preparation,
comprising:
4 providing a sheet of plastic sheet material having a thickness in the range of
0.015 to 0.040 inches and a flexural modulus in the range of 75,000 to
200,000 psi;
6 said sheet having a Rockwell hardness in excess of 72;
placing said sheet on a flat surface;
8 placing a food article on said sheet;
cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;
10 flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;
lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said
12 cut pieces; and
funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.